

News 'n Notes - December 2011

Roger Neitzel 1965, recently retired, was presented an Honorary Lifetime Membership for Services to the Pedigreed Livestock Industry by the National Pedigree Livestock Council (NPLC). Neitzel worked at the National Brown Swiss Association in Beloit, WI for 31 years. He also served as Interim Executive Secretary in 2009. He continues to be involved with Brown Swiss as a consultant and as chairman of their Historical Society Preservation Committee. Roger and wife, Jean, will continue to reside in Beloit, WI.

George Koepp 1977, is the Interim Agriculture Agent in Columbia County. Koepp grew up on a Caledonia Township farm, he & his wife, Polly now live on 40 acres of that farm, where he raised dairy cows, hogs, beef, grain, and forage crops. He was a High School Educator and FFA Advisor in Baraboo for 26 years.

Bob Johnson 1980, owns Badger State Auction in Milton. He was recently involved in a land sale where lots sold for as much as \$11,750/acre, which he described as "a new price for land sold down here at auction." Bob is also the Dean of Students at Milton High School.

Peter Coyne 1983, assisted Paul Trapp, official judge for World Dairy Expo, in placing the Milking Shorthorn classes at WDE. Coyne started work with a dairy herd near Prescott, then worked on his wife's farm near Miesville, he then became a production manager for Jon-De Farm near Baldwin, before accepting a position with Vita Plus in 2008. This was Coyne's first judging assignment at WDE, but he has attended WDE every year since 1977 except one. His wife, **Lisa (Schaffer) 1985**, has been at WDE for the past 25 years as a gift/memorabilia vendor. The couple has three children.

Tim Miller 1983, won the Championship Auctioneer Contest held at the Wisconsin State Fair. While working for Ralston Purina he was a benefit auctioneer. Tim then attended the World Wide College of Auctioneering which led to forming Believe in Auctions, LLC in 2007. He is serving his third year on WAA Board of Directors and is chairman of the marketing committee. Tim is a member of the National Auctioneers Association and is the Waukesha Rotary President. Tim is married to his wife Heidi and they have three daughters. He will compete in the International Auctioneer Championship Contest next July in Spokane.

Mark Rueth 1990, who works for Rosedale Genetics Ltd. in Oxford has partnered in the development of the 2011 Wisconsin Cow of the Year, Lavender Ruby Redrose-Red. Redrose is a Red and White Holstein.

Steve Maier 1991, became a consultant with Agri-Business Consulting, one of the Vita Plus companies. He will work with dairy producers to develop business plans for dairy modernization, enterprise consulting, business, monitoring and financial benchmarking and will provide training and educational programs to Vita Plus staff. He most recently worked in Cadott as an agricultural and commercial loan officer. He has also served as the chairman of the Chippewa County Milk Promoters Inc., president of the Chippewa County Holstein Breeders Association and leader of the local 4-H club. Steve lives in Jim Falls with his family.

Jeff Hicken 1998, and **Gena Polzin 2009**, are new 2011-12 directors for the Wisconsin FFA Foundation board of directors. Jeff works at the Department of Public Instruction and Gena is an ag instructor with the Agri-Science Academy in St. Peter, MN.

Laura Meyer (Rummler) 1998, of Emerald Valley Farm has climbed to the top of the show ring by diversification. Laura and her husband, **Andy 1992** combined their knowledge of livestock and are now raising Oxford sheep. Laura grew up raising beef cattle and Andy grew up on a registered Holstein farm. Andy is a feed specialist at Frontier FS Cooperative in Ixonia. Laura is a young sire program coordinator at the Semex dairy unit in Madison. This year they had several class winners and the grand champion ewe at the Wisconsin State Fair. They also exhibit at the Iowa State Fair, the Walworth County Fair, and the North American International Livestock Exposition.

Scott Serwe 1998, will be the Great Lakes Hybrids regional agronomist for Wisconsin. He will be responsible for helping place and promote their products in Wisconsin. Scott, originally from Brownsville worked as a sales representative for 10 years, then as a research associate for Pioneer. He now lives in Poynette.

Mariah Hadler 2000, is Co-Owner of Busy Barns Adventure Farm in Jefferson County. Along with her husband Paul and parents, Gray and Mary Telfer, they turned their 35 acres into an agri-tourism destination. Mariah started off by growing and selling mums alongside a petting farm. The farm then grew to selling pumpkins and fall decorations, a straw bale maze, a western area, and a sand box filled with corn kernels. This did so well that they made plans to have 3 barns: two for hands-on learning and the third for the farm animals. Mariah not only educates children through Busy Barns Farm, but also co-chairs the Jefferson County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program. Mariah and Paul have two children, Tawney and Trace, who also are hosts at Busy Barns.

Brian Maliszewski 2004, is one of three young agricultural leaders that have been appointed to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee. Brian started his own custom harvesting operation; he runs 1,600 acres of owned and leased land, and is a partner in his family's beef and crop farm.

Leah James (Johnson) 2007, and **Londa Johnson 2010**, were the coaches for the MN FFA team in Harrisburg, PA for the Dairy Judging contest. The MN FFA team received 1st in the FFA division. **Tony Scheffler 1999**, was the coach for the MN 4H team. The MN 4H team received 5th in the 4H division.

Nate Weisenfeld 2007, is one of the first four formal Dairy Grazier Apprentices. The apprenticeship program is sponsored by Grassworks and the state Department of Workforce Development. Nate is originally from Merrill WI, where he now owns 80 acres. He rents a dairy south of his property in Lincoln County. Nate has 125 head of heifers and first-lactation cows.

Steve Boe 2008, is the new district coordinator in west-central Wisconsin for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (District 4). Steve has worked as an agri-science teacher at Independence High School, a congressional intern for Congressman Ron Kind, and a research assistant for State Rep. Mark Radcliffe.

Vicki Janisch (Cooper) 2008, is an outreach specialist for AgrAbility of Wisconsin. AgrAbility provides services to farmers, their families, or people working in farm-related positions that are coping with effects of a disability.

Jake Cramer 2009, Beaver Dam's new agriculture teacher, is working with students to raise funds to build a new environmental science classroom at the school. Jake is also the FFA advisor.

Amanda Kunde 2010, is now working as a client services representative for the dairy and livestock division at ANIMART. Amanda will be responsible for building and maintaining client relationships, educating clients, and sharing on-farm solutions. She is also an active Winneconne FFA Alumnus and serves as the Winnebago County Fair assistant dairy superintendent.

Katie Wirkus 2010, is Wisconsin's 64th Alice in Dairyland. Katie is excited to be educating consumers about the benefits of buying their food locally. Katie began her duties June 1st. She will travel more than 40,000 miles across the state of Wisconsin to educate the media, youth, and civic groups about the state's agricultural industry as part of this one year contract with DATCP's Division of Agricultural Development. Katie was the 2008 Wisconsin Jersey Queen and 2009 Wisconsin Valley Fairest of the Fair.

Dan Pusch 2010 was featured in the career issue of Resource magazine published by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. He is a process engineer for Cargill Kitchen Solutions. He spends time at their headquarters in Monticello, MN planning projects when he's not at one of their six plants implementing a new project.

Christine Kuhr 2010 has moved up at the DelMonte processing plant in Cambria, WI. Christine started as a Quality Assurance Management Trainee, then became a QA Supervisor and has recently been promoted to QA Manager. She deals with auditors, regulatory officials and private label customers, as well as trains supervisors and full-time staff on various corporate procedures.

Dani Heisler 2011, spent the summer working as an intern with the UW-Extension Beef Cattle Specialist.